

A B S T R A C T

An inlet arrangement for inserting a preform (3') into a furnace (1') for drawing a fiber (2'). The furnace includes an enclosure (4') at the top of which there are both an opening to allow insertion of a preform which moves in translation, and a preform inlet arrangement (13'). The inlet arrangement comprises both an injector (6') situated at the level of the opening to inject inert gas around the preform and to fill the enclosure, and at least one seal (17B) fixed above the injector and designed to allow the preform to pass therethrough, with its cylindrical main body (9') being surrounded. The inlet arrangement further comprises an airlock (13) for closing and sealing the top of the furnace, above the injector, whether a preform is present or absent, which airlock is pressurized to prevent the surrounding air entering. The rods of the equipped preforms carry respective continuity tubes (20) of the same diameter as the bodies.